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ALDEBURGH

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Borough Offices.
Aldeburgh
East Suffolk.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1965

C. H. IMRIE,
T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Late Hon. Surgeon to H.M. The Queen.

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The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Aldeburgh.

Madam Mayor,

Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year 1965. This report is prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry of Health and follows the pattern of previous years.

I would like to thank the Council and Officers for their help and co-operation during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

C. H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Late Hon. Surgeon to H. M. The Queen.

Public Health Inspectors

G. H. Smith, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
H. Young, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Vital Statistics

Population - Births and Deaths

The Registrar General's estimate of the population has increased by 90 from 2,970(1964) to 3,060(1965). The number of live births (41) was greater by 5 while the still births remained at zero.

The number of deaths was 46 and was 13 fewer than the figure for 1964 with a consequent fall in the death rate. There was one infantile death during the year.

Analysis of the causes of death does not reveal any significant departure from the pattern of previous years and it is worthy of note that there were no deaths from accident or other forms of violence.

Notifiable Diseases

The number of notifications of infectious disease totalled 3 during the period. One case each of measles, scarlet fever and pneumonia. These were young children with the exception of the last named which occurred in an elderly person. The smallness of this number, when compared with other areas inevitably makes one wonder if we are in fact hearing about every case of infectious disease which occurs in the town.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis on the register fell by 4 during the year which ended with a total of 5 cases. This is the lowest figure since the war.

The following figures relate to the immunisation carried out by General Practitioners and the Local Health Authority during the year.

Smallpox - Primary Vaccinations	23
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough	27
Diphtheria/Tetanus	25
Diphtheria/Tetanus Boosters	7
Poliomyelitis	44

Immunisation against measles has been under consideration for some years and much research has been carried out on the production of satisfactory antigen. It is anticipated that it will be possible to introduce it as a routine measure within the next few years.

Another important measure in the battle against disease is the examination of cervical smears from women. The difficulty in this field lies in the shortage of trained personnel to carry out the tests but here again it is anticipated that this service will soon become available.

Housing

Housing in Aldeburgh is not in any way the urgent problem which it is in many other towns. There are no slum areas and although many houses in the town are old, lacking in certain amenities and badly sited the defects are not such as to render them unfit in the majority of cases. It is however, essential for these houses to be kept under continual review.

Building during the year has increased the available accommodation and it is not considered that there is any overcrowding problem of significant magnitude.

The caravan site still enjoys popularity and there were no complaints arising during the year. All caravan sites, however, require thorough and frequent supervision to ensure that the standard is maintained and the terms of the licence complied with.

Water Supply

The water supply of the town has been described in previous reports and has provided an adequate flow during the year. The water has been sampled and found to be of a satisfactory standard of purity.

Refuse Disposal

Refuse disposal always presents a problem in a town and in this respect Aldeburgh is no exception. During the previous year the Council acquired a plant for pulverising dry refuse and this, after many delays and frustrations was working by the end of the year. In theory this is an excellent method of dealing with dry refuse and should prove a boon once the teething troubles have been overcome.

The domestic dustbin is not an article which receives much care or attention from many householders, some of whom do not realise that wet refuse and hot ashes are both bad for the bin and shorten its useful life. The lid should be kept in position and it should never be used as an incinerator. Attention to this small matter would save both the householder and the Council both time and money.

Sewage Disposal

Sewage disposal is one of the greatest problems which faces Aldeburgh. As the Council is aware various schemes have been mooted in the past and a vast amount of work has been expended on their planning. For one reason or another all these schemes have fallen through. By the end of the year further planning was taking place. I feel that this is a matter of considerable urgency as the population is growing and more peoples are visiting the town. It is to be hoped that the current year will see some progress being made towards resolving this most urgent problem.

Food Hygiene

Hygienic handling and storage of food is of the utmost importance anywhere. In a town such as Aldeburgh however, the cleanliness of food becomes a matter of paramount importance when we remember that the town receives and caters for large numbers of visitors every year.

During the year routine inspection of food premises in the town was carried out and when necessary pressure was brought to bear to ensure that the Food Hygiene Regulations were being complied with. One of the greatest problems in food retailing shops was found to be in the lack of adequate storage space for waste materials, packing, empty cartons etc. This matter however, is receiving attention and with the co-operation of the traders it is hoped it will be overcome.

There are no Slaughter Houses in the town, but there is a large dairy which bottles milk for a wide area. These premises are visited regularly and when necessary, advice is given.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Borough ..... 2,679 acres

Rateable Value ..... £120,023.

Product of 1d. Rate ..... £480.

VITAL STATISTICS

Summary Covering Five Years

	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961
Population	3,060	2,970	2,970	2,920	2,900
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	13.4 (41)	13.2 (36)	13.8 (41)	16.1 (47)	18.9 (55)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	-	-	-	-	0.3 (1)
Death Rate per 1,000 Population	15.03 (46)	19.8 (59)	15.2 (45)	18.5 (54)	16.5 (48)
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births	24.3 (1)	27.7. (1)	-	-	-

Figures in brackets are the actual number of relevant births and deaths.

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1.	BIRTHS			
	Legitimate	22	18	40
	Illegitimate	-	1	1
2.	STILL BIRTHS			
	Legitimate	-	-	-
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
3.	ALL DEATHS	22	24	46
4.	INFANTILE DEATHS	1	-	1
5.	DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH CHILDBIRTH	-	-	-

COMPARABILITY

For the purpose of statistical comparison with other districts of different sizes and composition, the Registrar General supplies a factor which when applied to our Birth and Death Rates gives the following results:-

Birth Rate	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	14.74
	England & Wales per 1,000 population	18.4
Death Rate	Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	10.52
	England & Wales per 1,000 population	11.5

DEATHS BY CAUSES

	1963	1964	1965		
			Male	Female	Total
1. to 9. Infectious and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	1	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	2	1	-	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	1	1	-	-	-
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	2	3	-	1	1
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	1	-	-	-	-
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	4	4	4	3	7
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	-	-	-	-
16. Diabetes	-	1	-	1	1
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	8	2	8	10
18. Coronary Diseases, Angina	13	14	4	5	9
19. & 20. Hypertension with Heart Disease	-	7	-	-	-
21. Other Circulatory Diseases	4	5	2	2	4
22. Influenza	-	-	1	-	1
23. Pneumonia	2	4	1	2	3
24. Bronchitis	1	3	1	-	1
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	1	-	1
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	-	-	-	-
27. Gastritis Enteritis and Diarrhoea	-	-	-	-	-
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-	1	1
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	-	-	-	-	-
31. Congenital Malformations	-	-	1	-	1
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	5	3	3	-	3
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	1	-	-	-
34. All other Accidents	1	2	-	-	-
35. Suicide	-	1	-	-	-
36. Homicide and actions of war	-	-	-	-	-
	45	59	22	24	46

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

Monthly Incidence

	MEASLES	SCARLET FEVER	TUBERCULOSIS	ACUTE INFLUENZAL PNEUMONIA	
JANUARY	1	-	-	-	
FEBRUARY	-	-	-	1	
MARCH	-	-	-	-	
APRIL	-	-	-	-	
MAY	-	1	-	-	
JUNE	-	-	-	-	
JULY	-	-	-	-	
AUGUST	-	-	-	-	
SEPTEMBER	-	-	-	-	
OCTOBER	-	-	-	-	
NOVEMBER	-	-	-	-	
DECEMBER	-	-	-	-	Total
1965	1	1	-	1	3

Age Distribution

	Under 1	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	Over 50	Total
Measles	1										1
Acute Influenzal Pneumonia										1	1
Scarlet Fever				1							1
Tuberculosis											

TUBERCULOSIS

	Males		Females		Total
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	
Number of cases on Register at Lst January, 1965.	2	-	4	3	9
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time.	-	-	1	-	1
Number of cases restored to Register after being removed.	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register otherwise than by notification	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases removed from Register during year.	1	-	3	1	5
Number of cases remaining on Register at 31st December, 1965.	1	-	2	2	5

HOUSING

Statistics

No. of Council Houses completed during the year	32
No. of Council Houses occupied at 3.12.65.	172
No. of Private Houses completed during the year	14
Total No. units of accommodation within the Borough	1,300
No. of Houses inspected	23
No. unsatisfactory	5
No. rendered fit by informal action	5
Abatement Notices served	Nil
No. of Demolition Orders secured	Nil
No. of dwellings included in Clearance Orders	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished	Nil
No. of Improvement Grants - Discretionary	7
No. of Improvement Grants - Standard	4

WATER SUPPLY

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORTS

		Probable numbers 100ml.	
Date	Source	Coliform bacilli	Bact.coli (type 1)
14. 1. 65	1 Kings Field Cottages	0	
	55 Franklin Road, Aldeburgh	0	
28. 4. 65	55 Franklin Road, Aldeburgh	0	
	Standpipe, Fort Green	0	
10. 9. 65	Council Offices,	0	
	Hill Farm Dairy	0	
8.12. 65	Well at Grey Cottage, Hazlewood	0	
	Council Offices	0	

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample taken from	No. 1 Sump, Aldeburgh Waterworks.
Date received	27th May, 1965.
Appearance	Clear.
Nature of deposit	Nil.
Colour	Nil.
Taste	Satisfactory.
Reaction	Neutral pH 7.3.

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.03
Albuminiod nitrogen	0.01
Nitrate nitrogen	6.0
Nitrite nitrogen	faint trace
Chlorine as chlorides	220
Oxygen absorbed (4 hr. 27°C.)	0.10
Hardness as $CaCO_3$	
Total	395
Carbonate (temporary)	205
Non-Carbonate (permanent)	190
Alkalinity as $CaCO_3$	205
Free Carbon Dioxide	15
Total Solids at 180°	755
Iron Total	0.2
Metals in solution other than iron	Nil

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality and the chemical analysis shows no sign of pollution. The salinity of the supply has always been variable, and on this occasion it is more than twice what it was when this water was last analysed in August, 1963 (our certificate P.1168). The total hardness is also higher than it was then, being about 28° Clark as compared with 22°. This is entirely due to a rise in the permanent hardness. The total dissolved solids are in consequence of these changes considerably higher than in 1963.

In our opinion this water is suitable for drinking and general purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Ltd.,

(Sgd) E. C. WOOD.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 TO 1959
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of The Factories Act, 1937

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	7	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	18	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	19	26	-	-
Totals	34	51	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted. (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	---	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)					
Totals	1	1	-	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT.

Section 47 - No action required.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Premises where treatments were carried out

Dwellinghouses - 28
Other Premises - 20

FOOD PREMISES.

Number of Food Premises by type of business

Grocers	12	Ice Cream	13
Dairies	2	Butchers	3
Licensed Premises	17	Fried and Wet Fish	2
Bakers	3	Greengrocers	5
Sweets other than grocers	4	Cafés	3

Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Ice Cream Dealers	13	Sausage Manufacturers	3

No. of Inspections of Registered Premises	78
No. found unsatisfactory	21
No. rendered satisfactory	16